

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Tuesday, May 13, 2014
5:00 PM

Present: J. Tibbetts, MD, Harold Pfothauer, Audrey Murphy, Susan Paulus Smith, Joe Van Deurzen

Staff Present: Judy Friederichs, Rob Gollman, Patti Smeester (note taker)

Guests Present: Juliana Ruenzel, Corporation Counsel, Pat Evans, County Board Supervisor and media

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL / MODIFICATION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented. Van Deurzen/ Pfothauer
MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of March 11, 2014

MOTION: To approve. Van Deurzen / Pfothauer
MOTION CARRIED

4. Discussion and possible action on Sanimax, its citations, the legal arguments involved and the strategy to be adopted with respect to litigation and these matters.

MOTION: To go into closed session Tibbetts / Van Deurzen

5. Odor Complaints/Ordinance Review

Rob distributed an updated complaint list. To date in 2014, we have had 19 odor complaints, all 19 were Sanimax. We verified 12 complaints-7 were not verified. Zero citations have been issued. There have been no other complaints during this time period.

MOTION: To take no action on the ordinance. VanDeurzen / Paulus-Smith

6. Wind Turbine Update

Dr. Tibbetts distributed a copy of a letter to the board. Dr. Tibbetts put it together with assistance of Rick James, Susan Ashley, and Dave Enz. Dr. Tibbetts wanted to get something out to the medical community and feels it is apparent from a complaint he received a week ago that the medical community is not particularly informed on what is going on in the wind project. Dr. Tibbetts received a call from a girl in Wrightstown and she is 4.2 miles from the nearest wind turbine and has developed symptoms which have been documented. Susan Ashley has put a microbarometer in certain places to monitor the ILFN

(Infrasound Low Frequency Noise). There is enough energy at the residence 4.2 miles away to generate significant symptoms. Rick James knows the signature pattern of the noise/energy so that he can identify that it is from the wind turbines and not from a cooling tower or some other source. Dr. Tibbetts talked to Nina Pierpont about what she was doing in her community as far as trying to get some information out locally. She had not done anything, but in that location she may not have needed to. In this area, very few physicians or health care providers know much about low frequency noise (infrasound) and that is why Dr. Tibbetts put this letter together. The plan is to target the medical community including family practice, pediatrics, internal medicine, neurology, ENT and ophthalmology. Dr. Tibbetts would like the support of the board. Audrey asked if Dr. Tibbetts was doing this statewide or countywide and Dr. Tibbetts said the idea was to send this out on health department letterhead to those county providers. The health department uses a variety of avenues to get information out to physicians. Audrey thought this would be a good idea to get this eventually distributed statewide. Audrey indicated part of our mission is to educate and that is the reason for this.

MOTION: Accept Dr. Tibbett's letter to be distributed to the medical professionals in Brown County.

Murphy / Pfothenauer

MOTION CARRIED

Dr. Tibbetts also passed out a copy of the Public Health Nuisance Ordinance Chapter 38. Susan Ashley called Dr. Tibbetts and she asked what a public health emergency is. Susan wondered if wind turbines qualified. Dr. Tibbetts looked at the ordinance and thought the wind turbines could fit. The only issue would be a fact that Julianna Ruenzel brought up about number of people affected.

Audrey Murphy read the above definitions for "Public Nuisance", "Human Health Hazard" and "Immediate Human Health Hazard" from ordinance 38.01 Public Health Nuisance and commented that a lot of the complaints we are getting are that the wind turbines "substantially annoy" (from the ordinance) people. The turbines "endanger their comfort" as most say they have difficulty sleeping and "render (them) insecure in use of their property" as three people have moved out. Judy indicated she thinks it is a question of emergency. Audrey thought parts of this apply. Dr. Tibbetts also got a complaint today from Sarah Capelle also and she is one of the three families that moved out of their home. She still has to work there because that is where the family farm is and she is having more and more problems. Dr. Tibbetts did send a copy of the complaint to Judy. Dr. Tibbetts indicated there was going to be a document prepared primarily by Rick James and will include measurements that include infrasound in at least 5 homes. All those homes are having significant infrasound. There are 17 families that have significant complaints. There are 50 affidavits of health complaints on file in the last year and a half. We have the study by David Stetzer regarding stray voltage, and the study from five acousticians. There are sleep and survey studies. There will be maps of all the places with (health) problems and the turbines. Audrey asked if this was being done by the citizens groups. Dr. Tibbetts indicated this was being engineered by Rick James who is an acoustician and he is also who we used to help us with the ordinance. Dr. Tibbetts indicated that the information from the 35 surveys, 1/2 from Shirley Wind Farm and 1/2 from Fond du Lac, are going to go to Carmen Krough's epidemiologist. Carmen Krough is a pharmacist in Ontario Canada who is doing a lot of work with wind turbines and is quite knowledgeable. Carmen Krough is going to engineer getting the raw data from the

surveys and the sleep studies to that epidemiologist; Carmen thinks funding will not be a problem.

Judy asked Dr. Tibbetts how he thinks the medical community is going to react to his letter. Dr. Tibbetts thought there may be some that may want to look into this. Dr. Tibbetts hoped they would look at the referenced material. Susan wondered if there were numbers included in the letter as she feels adding those helps substantiate it. Dr. Tibbetts said the number he has right now is 16-18% of the populace within the wind farm and it is growing. The number that is suggested is 30% that are sensitive to infrasound. Judy thought it should be identified what is the purpose of the letter in the beginning. Dr. Tibbetts' purpose was to increase their index of suspicion.

Audrey wanted to share in today's Green Bay Press Gazette and article entitled "Panel to Discuss Wind Health Report. The state's Wind Citing Council, which advises the Public Service Commission during its wind siting rulemaking, will meet at 1 p.m. May 22 at the Public Service Commission Building, 610 North Whitney Way. The panel will talk about revisions to the draft wind-health report. Watch online at 1.usa.gov/1fZajzS or listen by calling (855) 947-8255 with code 8600402. "

Audrey thought some of the board members should listen to this. Dr. Tibbetts indicated that the wind-siting council is reviewing the research. Audrey also called Senator Rob Cowles office because she wanted a hard copy of this report if it was in existence and they would mail it if it was. Susan asked if the goal was to raise awareness and also prevent other wind farms. Dr. Tibbetts indicated the issue is to do safe siting.

Dr. Tibbetts also indicated Reid Ribble is also sensitive to what is going on and he is getting more information together.

7. Correspondence Received – Judy indicated we have not received anything.

8. Directors Report –

Communicable Disease Report – As of May 9th we have had 30 confirmed cases of mumps in 5 counties: mostly in Dane County, Milwaukee, and Waukesha. There has been one case in Brown County. 18 of the 30 cases are associated with a University. The range of ages is 18 to 29 years of age. When interviewed, the department is promoting vaccination.

Recruitment Update-Our MCH Nurse Manager is now Debbie Armbruster. She has worked at NEW Community Clinic and most recently at the Hemophilia Center. A Hmong Health Aide has been hired. We have a new Sanitarian starting on June 10th. We have yet to do interviews for the bilingual health aide for environmental division. We need to recruit for the school nurse; we don't need to fill until September but these will be going through the next Executive Committee. We had a sanitarian resign. We need to go through the formality of getting this position filled. Because it was so recent that we did interviews, we did not need to re-list the position. We also have an intern that is starting from Eau Claire.

QI Process – We got a grant from the State for January through September for Quality Improvement which is a joint grant with De Pere. Each of us got \$5,000 and we are the fiscal agent. We have a committee of a cross section of staff and managers and we have to go through a self-assessment as the first step and rate ourselves in terms of domains which correlate with the 10 essential services. We are about to finalize documentation.

The next step is to write a plan based on our deficiencies and third is to do one quality improvement project on one of them. We have to be done by the end of September. Strategic Planning – We have established our mission statement and we completed our values list. We have also done our SWOTS (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) with the Board and staff. We did a strategic issues process with our staff. We completed a stakeholder’s survey. We will meet with Judy Knudsen to pull themes together and have a staff retreat to work on looking at some of the interventions. The biggest suggestion was marketing with stakeholders and staff. The county is also working on marketing right now as well. We are looking at a retreat with a tentative date of June 20th.

Merit Raise Process- Judy handed out our Merit Pay Performance Review document which we handed out to staff. We will evaluate the employees in November for the merit raise based on the 5 core competencies and if they meet the components put in place. Judy reviewed the components. This is the first year they have done this.

Ranking - We are ranked about the same as last year; we are in the middle ranking again. Judy indicated under Quality of Life that this is based on a behavioral risk factor survey and people were asked what their opinion of their health was. It is interesting that our citizens rank low in how they perceive their health. We do well in the availability of clinical services.

Annual Report - Judy handed out the Annual Report. This year the comparisons to other years were included. We also added in a comparison with the national 10 essential services.

Staff Recognition – Judy reviewed the things we are moving forward with for staff recognition. We surveyed the staff. We are going to have a standardized form and staff can recognize a peer or a manager could recognize staff. At the general staff meeting, we will review the recognitions and staff will be acknowledged. At the end of the year, we will post them. We will then have a drawing for a small gift.

Bed Bug Presentation - May 20th we are having someone come in from the state and give a bed bug presentation at the Museum. We have invited other counties and included several organizations. We have room for 149 people and we are currently at 118 committed. Judy invited the Board members to this event. Susan Paulus-Smith indicated she would be attending.

Do1Thing – The idea behind Do1Thing is community information. It’s a standardized program which involves working on 1 thing a month to prepare for emergencies or disasters. The idea is to reach out to communities to help promote a concept or lead a concept. The program will roll out in September.

9. All Other Business Authorized by Law –

Dr. Tibbetts indicated a document will be completed within two weeks which is from Rick James. It will be quite a comprehensive document and he wondered if the board should meet to digest it and discuss it. Dr. Tibbetts thinks it is in regards to low frequency noise. Dr. Tibbetts wanted to tentatively schedule something on the second Tuesday in June (June 10th). (Note: this was canceled).

There was a discussion of open Board positions. Audrey thought it was important to have a full board for quorum issues.

10. Adjournment / Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 29th at 5:00 pm.

MOTION: To adjourn meeting at 8:05 PM
MOTION CARRIED.

Tibbetts / Paulus-Smith